

Message Text

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13

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 INT-05 L-02 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 H-01 /080 W

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P R 022015Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 724

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EMIN, GY

SUBJECT: GOG COMMENTS ON REYNOLDS NATIONALIZATION AGREEMENT

REF: GEORGETOWN 2257 (NOTAL)

1. GOG PRESS OF JANUARY 1 REPORTED NATIONALIZATION AGREEMENT IN BASICALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER. AS EXPECTED, GOG HIGHLIGHTED APPLICATION OF BAUXITE LEVY AND PAYMENT BY REYNOLDS TO GOG OF DOLS US 40,000 TO COVER COMPENSATION WHICH GOG HAD ADVANCED TO RETRENCHED WORKERS. (GOG CHRONICLE IN ATTEMPT TO RECAST PRESS RELEASE PUBLISHED ERRONEOUS FIGURES REGARDING COMPENSATION).

2. IN VESTING DAY SPEECH AT KWAKWANI PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM EMPHASIZED SAME POINTS AS IN PARA ONE, SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO REPRESENTAION MADE TO HIM QUOTE SOME MONTHS AGO UNQUOTE BY US OFFICIAL (PRESUMABLY AMBASSADOR) REGARDING USG POSITION THAT BAUXITE LEVY TAKENIN CONTEXT OF IMMINENT NATIONALIZATION WOULD EFFECT ADEQUACY OF COMPENSATION, AND CONSEQUENTLY WAS UNACCEPTABLE.

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BURNHAM PROCLAIMED THAT USG BACKED DOWN ON THIS AND HAD ACCEPTED

LEVY. ASIDE FROM FACE-SAVING AND CROWD-PLEASING REMARKS SUCH AS THIS, FROM INFORMATION WE HAVE SO FAR THERE WERE NO RPT NO ANTI-U.S. STATEMENTS OR BAITING COMMENTS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND TEMPORARY NAME OF FORMER REYNOLDS COMPANY WILL BE BERBICE MINES (OR MINING) ENTERPRISES. BURNHAM ANNOUNCED IN SPEECH THAT LOCAL CONTEST WILL BEHELD IN BERBICE TO SELECT PERMANENT NAME FOR COMPANY. OSTENSIBLY, FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST, FIRM WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ABSORBED BY GUYBAU.

4. EXPECT FULL TRANSCRIPT OF BURNHAM SPEECH SHORTLY. AMBASSADOR WILLBRING COPIES OF GOG PRESS RELEASE AND PRESS CLIPPINGS.
KREBS

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Message Attributes

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